Three of these new members were obtained by Mrs. Cora Hawes of Barre and three by W. K. Jordan of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Have your nominations been sent in ? ? ? ? We may yet hit our average monthly increase of 40, with your help.

A RECENT GIFT

There has been presented to the VHS, through Montpelier's City Manager William F. Corry, a typewritten manuscript of an uncompleted history of Montpelier by C. A. G. Jackson, who was editor of the Montpelier Evening Argus in the early years of this century.

The manuscript was forwarded to Mr. Corry by the son of the author, Harold Jackson, of Newark, New Jersey. The history covers the period of Indian occupancy and Montpelier's settlement by Colonel Jacob Davis in 1787, and includes phases of city life through 1912. It is a valuable contribution to the Society's library, being concise and informative, and at the same time most entertaining.

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATE HOUSE MONTPELIER

Leon S. Gay, President; Earle W. Newton, Director.

Telephone: Montpelier 1500, Extension 39.

VHS *News and Notes*

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Montpelier, Vermont

Sec. 34.66
P. L. & R.

VHS *News and Notes*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 APRIL, 1950 NUMBER 8

"SWEET FACTS"

Those of you who have seen our recent cartoons on the maple syrup industry in four of Vermont dailies will recognize the "did-you-know's" we are listing here. They aroused a great deal of comment. Some wrote in wanting to use the entire cartoon on their maple syrup cans this spring, others wanted reproductions for school classrooms and many requested that we publish the entire series in booklet form.

We cannot give you more than just the facts illustrated in the cartoons because of our limited space in *News and Notes*. Since the Vermont newspaper readers liked them so well, we judge that you too may be interested in this Vermont story. And after all, isn't the subject a seasonal one? Now we know spring is here.

Did you know that . . . .

95% of maple sap is water . . .

. . . If maple syrup is boiled down to the right point, it will weigh exactly 11 lbs. to the gallon . . .

. . . It takes about a barrel of sap to make one gallon of syrup . . .

. . . Only some 3 million maple trees are tapped — about 60% of the state's supply . . .

. . . 4½ million lbs. of Vermont syrup and sugar are sold all over the U. S. A. annually . . .

. . . The process of maple sugaring is practically the same as it was a hundred and fifty years ago!

. . . Maple sugar sap will flow from a tree until nature, a fickle element, decides to give up no more that year — usually about 10 gallons . . .

. . . Contrary to the city fellow who feared so, it will not hurt a tree to give up some sap . . .

. . . Sugaring was one of the first industries in the United States and Vermont still leads all other states in the production of maple sugar products . . .

. . . And it seems that the white man learned of the "sweet water" from the Indians who accidentally made a delicious dish by boiling the juice of the maple and cooking meat in it.

DON'T THROW AWAY THOSE MANUSCRIPTS!!!

And now that we have ushered in Spring with our maple syrup chatter, we immediately think of housecleaning when, along with the rest of the house, the attic takes its scrubbing. May we repeat, *don't throw away those manuscripts, letters and records.* They may furnish just the clue that is needed to complete a particular phase of our history, or may shed new light on some controversial subject. Research goes on and on — and should, with our help.

Here are some "lost materials," known to have been in existence according to the references listed, traces of which have been dug up by Kenneth Durant of East Jamaica, Vermont.

Where is Matthew Lyon's autobiography? It was referred to in J. F. McLaughlin's *Matthew Lyon,* pp. 27, 28, 415, as "mutilated by mice" but still partially legible, said to have been taken by Mason R. Lyon to Alabama, but more likely it was James Lyon (son of Matthew) to South Carolina.

(Note: M. L. was the founder of Fair Haven, member of the Green Mountain Boys and at the capture of Fort Ticonderoga. Printed fourth oldest newspaper in Vermont, after acquaintance with Benjamin Franklin, and became a very influential member of Congress from Vermont and later Kentucky).

And what about " . . . the journal kept by Mr. Finley and now lying before us"? This reference was made by D. P. Thompson in his *History of Montpelier,* p. 124. Patrick Finley was said to have bored for salt in Montpelier in 1827.

Then there is the oft-mentioned manuscript of David Johnson: "Many years ago, David Johnson copied all the correspondence of his father and General Bayley which could be found." — Well's *History of Newbury,* p. 72. On pages 13 and 14, Johnson was said to have had first-hand accounts from survivors of the famed Rogers' Rangers. And according to Hemenway II, p. 919, in a letter from A. G. Johnson dated December 27, 1868: "I will try to write a History of Newbury so far as my father's manuscripts and other historical documents in my possession will enable me."

This listing will be continued in the *Quarterly* in an attempt to publicize the continuing need for conservation and preservation of original documents.

GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS LIVE AGAIN

The combined St. Michael's and Trinity College Radio Workshop has started a series of radio programs on Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys, over the Burlington (Vermont) station WCAX. This hard-working group of young radio tyros has recorded the first, presented by your Society in what we call our *Ticonderoga* series. Milton Slater, program director of WCAX and instructor of the workshop, will air the program at 10:30 each Friday evening.

SPRING MEETING

We cannot tell you yet the exact date of the annual meeting. It is under consideration. You will remember that President Leon S. Gay is in Africa and the matter of the date also depends on our speakers' availability.. But watch for notice in *News and Notes* and there will be newspaper coverage too. Plans are being formulated for an exceptionally interesting meeting.

FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We have caught an item in the Burlington (Vermont) *Free Press* about this new group's third meeting, held in March. Twenty-five new members joined the organization.

This was no tea—nor afternoon social. First of all, Hale Nye of Georgia gave a story of the historic Georgia Town Hall, built in 1800. Miss Kathleen Kehoe followed with a paper on one of the early settlers of the community.

Finally, all participated in old Vermont dances led by the Montgomery Grange, carried out complete with caller, music and costumes, even to "Money Musk", "Portland Fancy" and old time fiddlin' by Fritz Carl. This was the unique idea of Lawrence Oliver, who presented this portion of the program to illustrate his discussion on old Vermont folk dances.

This kind of a program would be called "popularizing" history at the local level by the American Association for State and Local History. To us, it sounds like fun.

ALL CREDIT GOES TO ABBEY MARIA HEMENWAY

"The following suicides have occurred in Grand Isle, viz . . . Daniel Hoag, jr., who shot himself June 13, 1861. The mind of the latter had become deranged

by excessive indulgence in smoking tobacco." (See page 532 of Hemenway II: *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*)

IT'S A SECRET

We always wait until the last paragraph to say something about our drive for new members. Not until our annual meeting can we tell you how we are coming out. Many of you are very loyal and we continue to receive nominations. Keep them coming. Possibly we will have space to list the newest members in next month's issue.

We wish to acknowledge, with sincere thanks, the kind letter of Mr. Harold J. Adams of Buffalo, N. Y., in which he requested that his membership be changed from active to *life*. We quote his last paragraph: "Please let me say that I know of no organization created for public education and benefit that is more entitled to support than yours. I quite agree with Mr. Newton that in planning for the future it is profitable, as well as interesting, to study the work, the ideas and ideals of our forbears, particularly Vermonters."

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VOLUME 1 MAY, 1950 NUMBER 9

"IN THE MERRY, MERRY MONTH OF MAY"

May has been quite a month in Vermont history. 'Twas in the early dawn of the 12th of May, 1775, that the Green Mountain Boys, led by that loquacious frontiersman Ethan Allen, broke into officers' quarters at Fort Ticonderoga to demand surrender. Knowing that the guns of the British-held fort would come in mighty handy, this band of only about 65, accompanied by the very military Colonel Benedict Arnold, had crossed the lake on a captured scow, after trying to rent boats from the British at Crown Point (! !), swarmed through the crumbling walls and scared the pitiful, sleepy garrison half out of its wits. Allen, as he said some years later, demanded the fort in the name "of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress".

Fort "Ti" was a strategic key to the "Northern Gateway", coveted by the British. Allen's idea was that its capture and, later, invasion of Canada might remove the threat of the British from the northern frontier once and for all.

So far, so good.

Allen undertook a rash exploit after being forced to abandon St. John's (Canada) which Arnold had taken. Being commissioned to only excite the Canadians to revolt, he launched a surprise attack with a small half-hearted group on the city of Montreal, no less. He was to have had help by attacks from the south. These were not made and the net result was that our Green